



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer

Connecticut AFL-CIO

Before the Public Safety and Security Committee

February 15, 2011

Senators Hartley and Representatives Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, my name is Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO and I am here to testify on behalf of our 900 affiliated local unions representing 220,000 members who reside in all 169 of our cities and towns.

I am here to testify in support of:

Proposed H.B. No. 5802 AN ACT ADOPTING CERTAIN SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THOMAS COMMISSION. No bill or law can bring back the six men who died a year ago when the Kleen Energy facility exploded. We can however work tirelessly to assure that no additional loss of life will occur. I live less than a mile from the Kleen Energy facility and as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO representing Connecticut workers this issue is very personal to me. In 2010 one worker dies on the job every sixteen hours, that's why it is critical that we look at and review policies and procedures for workplace safety. The Connecticut AFL-CIO has been at the forefront of worker safety since our inception in 1957 and we will remain vigilant every day.

These recommendations are a common sense approach to a potentially dangerous situation. By balancing the need for safety, responsibility to the surrounding communities, governance and implementation HB 5802 hits the mark. First and foremost it bans "gas blows" using flammable gas. Second it puts an emphasis on accountability and training. Lastly it puts measures into place that allow for the Siting council to receive input from other key departments.

We appreciate the committee holding this very important public hearing and we look forward to working with this General Assembly to get this bill passed and signed into law.

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